U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Ocean Service
Office of Response and Restoration
Coastal Protection and Restoration Division
7600 Sand Point Way NE
Seattle, WA 98115-6349

June 15, 2006

Cliff Clark
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550, Mailstop A3-04
Richland, WA 99352

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EDMC

Dear Mr. Clark,

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the draft Five-Year Review Report of the Hanford Site prepared by the Department of Energy (DOE) under requirements of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). As a natural resource co-trustee with DOE at the Hanford Site, the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) looks forward to continuing to work with the DOE on multiple issues of joint interest and responsibility. We are very interested in working with DOE on habitat improvement projects either as part of cleanup through mitigation, or as restoration through the damage assessment process, or both.

NOAA has several comments on the draft Five-Year Review Report:

1) Protectiveness of Interim Remedies

Based on the June 2001 EPA *Comprehensive Five-Year Review Guidance*, NOAA feels that the appropriate protectiveness finding for the Hanford Site Five-Year Review should be that "Protectiveness cannot be determined until further information is obtained." (EPA 540-R-01-007). Specifically, risk assessment has not been completed for Hanford, and until the risk assessment is complete, it is not possible to determine if the interim remedies are protective. Therefor, at this time, we are not able to make conclusions about the protectiveness of interim remedies, particularly for areas of the river where contaminants may have come to be located.

Since more information (risk assessment) is needed in order to determine protectiveness, the determination of protectiveness should be deferred, and an addendum stating follow-

Sincerely,

Mary Baker, Ph.D.
Acting Pacific Coast Branch Chief